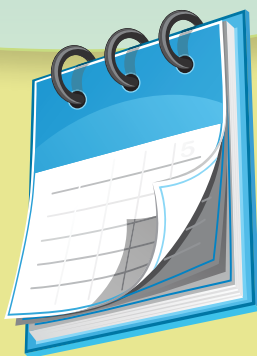


# WASTEWATCH

building a greener future

## SAVE THE DATE!



### BIOCYCLE EAST CONFERENCE

The 2014 Biocycle East Conference is coming to the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Maryland, **October 28 & 29**. Preconference workshops will be held on the 27th and two tour tracks on the 30th. Presentation tracks include composting, food waste, anaerobic digestion, green infrastructure and nutrient management. Details on the Conference can be found at: <http://www.biocycleeastcoast.com/index.html#.U-I5E7EmWYg>.



## AUTHORITY JURISDICTIONS AWARDED ELECTRONICS RECYCLING GRANTS



Authority jurisdictions have been provided grants from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to enhance their electronics recycling programs. The awards which totaled \$185,358 ranged in varying amounts from \$27,200 to \$38,000. Jurisdictions will use the funds to supplement existing e-cycling programs. One example is to use the grant money to help pay for the recycling of CRT televisions and monitors.

Funding for the grants comes from MDE's statewide Electronics Recycling Program. Since 2008, the program has required electronics manufacturers that do business in the State of Maryland to register and pay initial and annual fees for the right to do business in the state. These fees go into the State Recycling Trust Fund, which funds the grants. Jurisdictions that are awarded grants are reimbursed for costs pertaining to qualified electronic recycling activities.

Robust electronic recycling programs benefit communities as well as e-cyclers. They prevent further landfilling of electronics waste that takes up valuable



landfill space and is often toxic and sometimes hazardous. Conversely, there are valuable metals in electronics waste that can be harvested by e-cyclers for revenue. The grants will help these jurisdictions continue to process electronics waste in a safe and responsible manner.

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Authority Sponsors  
2014 Road to Zero Waste  
Conference



## BALTIMORE CITY EXPANDS STREET SWEEPING WITH HELP FROM AUTHORITY

B

altimore City has expanded its mechanical street sweeping program to encompass nearly all of its neighborhoods.

Routes for the street sweeping program were developed for the City through the Authority by its contract with Gershman, Brickner, & Bratton, Inc. (GBB).

For many years, the City has had a robust mechanical street sweeping program where streets in the central business

districts and highly travelled inbound and outbound roads would regularly be cleaned by street cleaning vehicles. Now the street sweepers are dispatched to all other areas of the City on a regularly scheduled basis so that most residents see a sweeper at least once a month.

GBB and its subcontractor C2Logix developed routing for the sweepers utilizing existing personnel and fleet vehicles. Through routing software and extensive study of the street sweeping system, the consultants were able to design routes that expanded the breadth of the program while maintaining focus on the business districts and heavily travelled thoroughfares. GBB also helped design the postcards that were sent to residents letting them know



about the new street sweeping services in their communities.

Published reports suggest that residents have been overwhelmingly supportive of the new program. The City states that this is just another step in making Baltimore a cleaner city.



## AUTHORITY CO-HOSTS TOURS OF MONTGOMERY RRF AT NAWTEC

T

he Authority, along with Montgomery County and Covanta Montgomery, co-hosted tours of the Montgomery

County Resource Recovery Facility (MCRRF) in Dickerson, MD for over 50 attendees of the NAWTEC Conference, which took place in Reston, VA in May. Tour participants came in a day early

to walk through the 1,800 ton-per-day facility and get an overview of the comprehensive solid waste management system that the County has in place for its citizens.

The North American Waste-to-Energy Conference (NAWTEC), is the Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA's) premier waste-to-energy

conference. This year was the 22nd Annual Conference. Hundreds of solid waste professionals from the United States, Canada and around the world converged in suburban Washington, D.C. to discuss energy from waste technologies and to network with colleagues in the industry. The Authority took this opportunity to showcase the award winning facility.

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NAWTEC attendees tour of the Montgomery County RRF.



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NAWTEC is a two-part conference that consists of sessions on waste-to-energy (WTE) topics and an industry trade show. The sessions cover both technical and public policy issues in the industry. For example, in the technical area there were presentations on gasification technologies and graduate student research papers. In the public policy arena, there were discussions on using WTE to curb greenhouse gas emissions. The studies show that modern WTE facilities do not adversely impact human health or the environment. There was also a discussion on how to promote WTE through social media.

The trade show, which was open continuously during the conference, allowed conference attendees to network and gather information from more than

50 different companies in the WTE industry. Companies at the trade show ranged from engineering firms to recycling operators.

Other highlights of the conference included a special recognition for Canada's new WTE facility, which is being constructed by Covanta in the regional municipality of Durham near

Toronto, Ontario. The new 140,000 metric ton-per-year facility is in its final testing stage. In full operation, it will be able to provide energy for approximately 10,000 homes in the Durham and York regions of Ontario.

The 23rd Annual NAWTEC is scheduled to be held in Tampa in spring of 2015.



Attendees at NAWTEC touring the Montgomery County RRF listen to a presentation in the facility's control room (Bill Davidson in white hardhat)

## AUTHORITY SPONSORS 2014 ROAD TO ZERO WASTE CONFERENCE

**T**here are more than 100 communities in the country that define themselves as zero waste or on the road to zero waste, and once again the Authority co-sponsored the annual MRN-SWANA Zero Waste Regional Conference June 19 & 20 at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, MD. The conference focused on the concept of zero waste -- how to define it, why it is important, and how to prioritize zero waste diversion and disposal options based on municipal and community needs. There were numerous panel discussions about zero waste concepts and presentations on government and industry zero waste initiatives.

### Opening Remarks

The conference opened with an analysis of the changing landscape of waste volumes during the past few decades and the implications of this "evolving ton." That is, volumes of waste disposal have

leveled off or slightly declined and recovery rates for recycling and re-use have continued to increase during this period. However, municipal solid waste generation has decreased overall primarily because of lighter weight packaging materials and electronics, which have contributed to an increase in non-recyclable mixed material packaging products and the use of multi-purpose, transportable electronic devices. These trends, along with a reduction in paper, metal and glass consumption, have resulted in the disappearance of the biggest revenue and tonnage sources in the waste stream. In addition to that, organics tonnages have steadily increased, encouraging a new target for diversion to occur. A periodic review of all components of the waste stream is necessary to anticipate the revenue and costs associated with the management of new and familiar materials.

The opening remarks also emphasized

the importance of continually innovating collection systems and solid waste management sorting facilities to ensure a greater capture of materials for recycling and a reduction in operation and collection costs.

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## AUTHORITY SPONSORS 2014 ZERO WASTE CONFERENCE

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### Breakout Sessions

The session that followed opening remarks consisted of a roundtable focused on all aspects of zero waste, including source reduction, composting, recycling and waste-to-energy. Speakers included representatives from the solid waste and recycling divisions of various municipalities, the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Maryland General Assembly and citizen non-profit groups. It was moderated by Dylan Thomas, editorial director of *Resource Recycling*. Topics discussed were: the implications of various

solid waste issues including extended producer responsibility, pay-as-you-throw, end markets, proper management of materials, including education and enforcement of support mandates and proper siting of facilities.

Presentations throughout the rest of the conference focused on criteria for increasing recycling rates within businesses and multi-family dwellings, updates to various recycling markets, options for managing hard to recycle materials, zero waste development,

organics diversion, strategies of a zero waste community and alternative technologies to expand and incorporate a zero waste system.

These sessions provided conference participants with a broader context and a better understanding of waste management at a time when the political climate will most likely evolve towards enacting zero waste planning requirements on local jurisdictions.